The European Harvest Field

Succeeding The Russian Harvest Field

VOLUME FIVE MARCH, 1925 NUMBER TWO

Taking the Gospel to Europe

Commendation of the Fellowship by the Evangelical Christian and Missionary Witness of Toronto.

In the minds of many Christian leaders Europe is believed to be just as strategic mission ground as it was in the days of the Apostle Paul. Then the cry of the Man of Macedonia beckoned the first missionaries from the East. Now the Man of Macedonia seems to be beckoning to the missionary evangelists to come to Him from the West.

After visits to Central and Eastern Europe, two Christian leaders in the States were profoundly impressed with the need of preaching a pure Gospel to Europe, now so open-minded to the Gospel as one result of the World War. The two men referred to are Pastor O. R. Palmer, of Berachah Church, in Philadelphia, and Henry L. Hellyer, Director of the CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY TO JEWS. They gathered about them other Christian men who shared in this conviction, and as a result have organized "THE AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ONENESS AND EVANGELIZATION," with Pastor Palmer as chairman and Mr. Norman J. Smith, of New York, as secretary.

The organizations underlying this FELLOWSHIP are the RUSSIAN EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY, of New York; THE SERBIAN MISSION, of New York; the AMERICAN CHRISTIAN RELIEF MISSION, of Philadelphia, and the CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY TO JEWS, of Philadelphia.

The organization is already in touch with Christian workers in Great Britain and on the Continent of Europe, such as Mrs. Jessie Penn-Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer-Johnson and Rev. David Baron, in England, and Pastors Lohman, Jack and Kroeker and Sister Eva and her helpers in their "faith" orphanages in Germany. The FELLOWSHIP is also coöperating with Pastor Monsky, of Austria, who reached America with his interpreter last month, and who expects to tell of the marvelous working of God in the salvation of souls in his country.

In many places in Europe there is a new openness to the Gospel, especially in some of the new states, as Czecho-Slovakia and some of the Balkan States, while the Jews in Russia are coming to see that Judaism has nothing for them and are listening to the Gospel with a hearing ear.

It is the plan of this FELLOWSHIP to encourage the speedy evangelization of Europe by sending out workers in apostolic fashion, two by two, not neglecting the great universities of Germany, from which the destructive higher criticism has poured forth so long, but where many of the students are now eager to hear the pure Gospel.

It is held that Europe is the storm center of the world, and that there is no more important section of the globe for the preaching of Christ. The true Gospel is obscured by the Roman Catholic teaching.

What God can do in mighty and speedy evangelization has already been demonstrated in the remarkable work of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Norton, Director of the BELGIAN GOSPEL MISSION with headquarters in Brussels.

The AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP is intensely interested in a number of schools located at strategic points in Central and Western Europe, and these schools are becoming centers from which missionaries are already going forth.

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A Report of Much Importance

Recommendations of the Committee which Considered Strengthening of the Fellowship for Its Labors in Europe.

The following recommendations, prepared by a special committee, were presented at the Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ONENESS AND EVANGELIZATION, held in Philadelphia, Pa., on February 28th:

Recognizing the good work which has been done by the RUSSIA EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY, the CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY TO JEWS, the SERBIAN GOSPEL MISSION and the AMERICAN CHRISTIAN RELIEF MISSION, in seeking to promote evangelization, Scripture distribution and relief to Central and Eastern Europe, and endorsing the formative step taken by these societies in forming the AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ONENESS AND EVANGELIZATION, we feel that the time is ripe for an advance, looking toward the perfecting of a strong society to function entirely as one unit for the promotion of the work into which we have hitherto been led.

To this end we suggest that the Executive Committee of the AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP take into consideration the whole situation and present a report to the various societies as to what further steps should be taken to bring about the strongest organization and functioning of the FELLOWSHIP.

We further recommend for your consideration the formation of a strong Field Committee, to act as an advisory council, who would pass in the distribution of all money, relief and Scriptures on the field, and who would have an oversight over the selection, location and ministry of workers in the various countries.

In order that this FELLOWSHIP may function simply and yet effectively, we recommend that one treasurer be selected to act for all interested parties in the home territory, and that one treasurer be also chosen to receive and disburse all European funds of the FELLOWSHIP, under supervision of the Field Committee.

We recommend for your consideration the election of a Home Director, who would be able to give time and thought to the development of the work on the home end and to counsel with us as to the development of the work on the field. We recommend that Rev. W. S. Hottel, of Altoona, Pa., be elected Home Director and made a member of the Executive Committee.

In connection with our desire to strengthen and simplify the entire work, it may be well to consider whether our present Boards of Directors should not function as District or Advisory Committees, with other similar committees to be added in various centers.

We recommend also that THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD be issued in the future as a monthly, in enlarged form, and that every other effort possible be made to place the entire work on a strong basis, both administratively and spiritually.

After carefully considering the recommendations made by the committee, the FELLOWSHIP met again in an adjourned meeting on March 7th, when practically the entire program was adopted.

The officers were reëlected for another year, with the addition of a Home Director and two additional member of the Executive Committee, as follows:

Chairman, Pastor O. R. Palmer, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Home Director, Rev. W. S. Hottel, Altoona, Pa.; Secretary, Norman J. Smith, New York City; Treasurer, Clarence E. Mason, Philadelphia, Pa.; Executive Committee Members, Henry L. Hellyer and Howard A. Banks, of Philadelphia; Rev. P. W. Philpott, Chicago, Ill., and Alwyn Ball, Jr., of New York City.

As soon as possible the contemplated Field Committee for Europe will be selected and placed in charge of all work in the field, with a treasurer to disburse funds.

THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD will hereafter be issued every month, instead of bi-monthly, and the editorship will be assumed by Rev. W. S. Hottel, in addition to his duties as Home Director.

As soon as arrangements can be made, it is probable that the executive officers of the FELLOWSHIP and underlying societies will be merged in one location, to reduce overhead expenses and avoid duplication of labor.

These changes in the interest of better administration and more intensive work for the great European Mission Fields are commended to our friends, with the request that much prayer be offered that the blessing of God may rest upon the seed-sowing and harvest in the days to come.

A Personal Interrogation—In All Love

Dear reader, whoever you are, high or low, rich or poor, honored or despised, *has God all there is of you?* (2 Cor. 8:5). For He is either your Lord *of all,* or your Lord not at all,—*there is no middle ground* (Mat. 6:24). We want those associated with this movement whom *God* wants —those for whom *He* is searching (2 Chron. 16:9, first clause)—are *you* one of *these?* God grant it, to whom be *all* the glory; you and we are nothing—*He is everything!*

Taking a Real Step Forward

Several announcements in this issue of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD indicate a distinct forward movement of the AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ONENESS AND EVANGELIZATION. Each step has been prayed through, in sincere desire to wait upon the Lord and to know His will.

From the inception of the FELLOWSHIP movement the thought of its members has been to bring overhead expense in connection with European evangelization, Scripture distribution and relief work down to a minimum and to give good stewardship of the gifts entrusted to its care.

With the carrying out of the recommendations made at the recent annual meeting in Philadelphia, the underlying societies will be able to conduct all necessary business in a single office, thus saving duplicate records and office equipment and eliminating much overhead expense.

Added to this, the work on the field will be controlled by a strong committee of consecrated men, qualified spiritually as well as in a business way to select and control the workers and to disburse the funds placed in their hands. Frankly, it is intended that no single individual shall have control over the funds of the FELLOWSHIP or its underlying societies, either in this country or on the foreign field.

Reduction of expenses to a minimum and consecrated stewardship at home and in the mission fields ought to commend the FELLOWSHIP to every reader of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD.

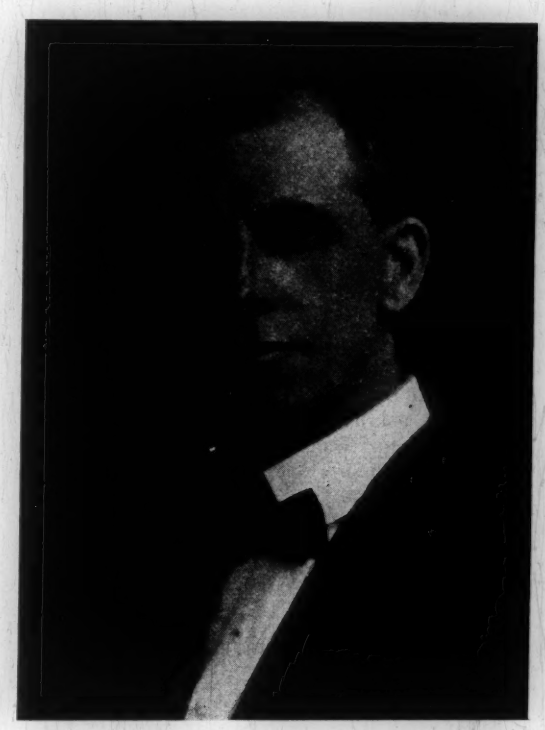
A Change of Editors

With the next issue of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD the editorship will be assumed by Rev. W. S. Hottel, formerly editor of the FRIEND OF RUSSIA. Mr. Hottel is too well known to need extended comment or commendation in these columns. His consistent labors for the Kingdom, his ministry in Bible Conferences, his editorship of the well-known Sunday school literature published by the Union Gospel Publishing Company, and many other labors have long commended him to the Christian public. Mr. Hottel has a vital interest in carrying the Gospel to the millions in Europe who are still in need, and we feel assured that he will find free scope for his abilities in his new relations. Announcements of interest regarding the next issue of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD will be found in another column, in the vigorous style familiar to Mr. Hottel's friends. We commend him to the prayers and good will of all the readers of this magazine.

The Magazine in the Future

Foreword by the Home Director and Future Editor of the European Harvest Field.

The reader will find elsewhere in the present issue of the magazine a statement by Mr. Norman J. Smith, regarding the coming into the work of the AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ONENESS AND EVANGELIZATION of the writer of these lines, as well as of his assuming the editorship of the magazine. A word concerning the future of the magazine will therefore be in order.



REV. W. S. HOTTEL.

1. *We expect to enlarge the magazine quite considerably.* It will not be larger in the number of pages, but in the size of the pages. It will not be clothed with a special cover, but will appear with sixteen pages straight, with printed articles on the front and on the back pages. We desire to enlarge it considerably, while at the same time we want to produce it as cheaply as possible. A special cover costs quite a bit extra and does not do so well for solid printing, there-

fore we expect to drop it. Service and economy is our slogan.

2. *We expect to change the contents of the magazine considerably.* Hitherto it contained very little spiritual reading matter, but mostly reports and information about the missionary work in the field. We expect to make it a medium to carry helpful spiritual messages and a means of building up the spiritual life, as well as a channel of live missionary information and stimulation. We hope to feed the sheep, while we bring the news of the missionary work that is being done by the grace and blessing of God, and while we present the needs of the work and impart the needed information concerning it. A vigorous Christian life, with a passion to make Christ known and to evangelize the unevangelized is our spiritual objective, by God's grace and help.

3. *We should like to have a large list of paid-up subscribers.* The price will be $1.00 per annum, in advance, instead of fifty cents, as heretofore. We desire to make the magazine worth while to subscribe for, and for this reason must raise the subscription price. We want to give the readers the value of their dollar in spiritual help and blessing, and at the same time tell them about the advance and needs of the work, from time to time. If we give at least a dollar's worth of spiritual reading matter, we may freely solicit subscriptions for the magazine, for we are not asking for a gift, but are doing a square business deal. We feel that Christian people will be more ready to give a dollar for the magazine than fifty cents, when they know that they are receiving spiritual help and blessing, and not only the missionary information. And by a considerable list of paid-up subscribers we can make the magazine more nearly, if not entirely, self-supporting. We shall take care of all our present subscribers under this new arrangement.

4. *We would kindly ask for the heartiest coöperation of all our readers.* If your subscription to the magazine has expired, please send in your dollar at once. If you have never subscribed, please do so now. Why not send in a subscription for some Christian friend? Or why not send in a donation for the magazine, to help start it off with a real, live gait? Any thing you may be led to do along this line will be greatly appreciated. Remember, dear reader, we are simply aiming to put the magazine on a real sound financial basis, in order that we may be able to use it as a means to further the evangelization of the millions of Europe, while at the same time we need not draw largely upon our funds to do so. Will you help us in this matter?

Our readers will readily see why we thus plead. The magazine is our only real medium by which praying friends are informed concerning the work, it is the only means of a personal touch, in a wide and general sense. And we know that if we are to have the intelligent, sympathetic and earnest prayers, as well as the financial help of Christian people, they need the fullest information concerning the work that is being done in the field, under the blessing of God, as well as the fullest knowledge concerning the needs of the work. The magazine brings this information and knowledge. Christians who do not know of the work will not pray for it, neither will they support it. We desire the prayers of God's people—of thousands of them, yes, of hundreds of thousands. We need them, indeed, we must have them. Therefore, once more we appeal to our readers to please help us make known the work. We shall be glad to mail a sample copy of the magazine to any friends whose names and addresses will be supplied. Watch for the April issue of the magazine. It will be a sample of what the magazine is to be in the future. Brethren, pray for us as we seek to do this service for our Lord, the scattered members of the Body of Christ, and for lost and perishing souls.

W. S. HOTTEL.

A Night of Prayer—Why Not in Our Day?

Shall It Be April 4, 1925?

In the Australian revivals of 1902, two hundred souls were saved in one church in one day. Why? Two hundred believers had prayed all night? Why not in our day?

In 1741, under the preaching of Jonathan Edwards, "a thoughtless, vain, irreligious assembly became suddenly so overwhelmed with sobs and cries—some clutching the pews as though already sliding into hell—that a minister seized the preacher by his dress, exclaiming: 'Mr. Edwards, Mr. Edwards, is not God a God of mercy?'" Hundreds of Christians had been prostrate before God the whole night pleading in behalf of this assembly. Why not in *our* day?

In the Scotch revival of 1630, five hundred conversions took place under a single sermon by John Livingstone. A vast assembly had spent all night in prayer and praise. Why not in *our* day?

Early Methodism flourished spiritually on its all night meetings and its days of fasting and prayer. Why not in *our* day?

It was an all night meeting in the Moody Bible Institute some twenty-five years ago that sent Dr. R. A. Torrey around the world, and multitudes were converted. Why not all night meetings in *our* day?

Let the days and nights of prayer return to the Church, and the days and nights of revival will return.

The Baptist Bible Union of North America is calling the whole evangelical world to "three days of concerted prayer" the first three days in April. On Sunday, April 5th, the Sunday school world will be studying the second of Acts. What more fitting thing than that the Saturday evening preceding be spent by believers everywhere in penitent petition to God for a fresh visitation from on high,—letting the meeting extend until midnight, *or even until morning,* wherever the Spirit of God seems thus to lead? Ah, then Pentecost would cease to be with many a mere historical fact and would become a present glorious experience!

Why not in *our* day—"not by might, nor by power," but by the Spirit of Him who is "the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever," and who is waiting, waiting, waiting, to do "great and mighty things" which the Church knows not. Will you not ask God what response to *Him* He would have *you* make to this appeal? Will *you* be one to observe the first three days of April in prayer? And to give yourself (alone or with others) to intercession on Saturday night, April 4? Will *you* be one of many to "pray without ceasing" until revival comes?

Pray for revival!

A Word of Supplication

Let Us Offer It Together

"Father in heaven, *but once* we pass this way. Two boundless eternities lie on either side. Our little moment is but *an instant*—then *gone forever!* Our present failure is our *eternal failure.* Yea, more, when *we* fail, do we not compel as it were *Thy* failure? for no workman can work without tools. Are we not *Thy* tools? Use us then, whether to change one life or many, one neighborhood or a nation, one hamlet or a hemisphere. Use us to *Thy* glory, and let us see *Thee—Thee alone!* In Jesus' name, Amen."

A Message From the Field

Henry L. Hellyer Writes of Conditions in Various Parts of Europe, Appealing for Prayer and Material Aid.

BERLIN, Jan. 20. 1925

Words fail me to describe impressions gained thus far of conditions in Germany. Great changes have taken place in Central and Eastern Europe, but for better or worse is problematical. On the whole, it seems as though the German people have been sobered on account of what they have passed through in recent years, at least it would seem so from conversations I have had with different persons who keenly discern the destitution of their country. They seem more ready to hear and heed the Gospel message.

I attended one of the services at the "Dome," the largest church in Berlin, and the place was crowded with earnest worshipers. Many had to be refused admittance long before the service was started. I am informed the same is true everywhere. The people are flocking to the churches and in many of their hearts there is a deep longing apparently for a real spiritual message. As I watched the people flocking to the churches I could not help offering quiet prayer for God to raise up men filled with the Holy Spirit, chosen by our risen Lord, with a message from Himself, for those hungry and apparently despondent multitudes.

While everybody looks apparently well and cheerful the Christians have been passing through very hard and trying times. The establishing of the mark in Germany and Poland has worked great hardship on missions and missionaries who depend for their support, under God, from friends outside of Germany and Poland. The whole work as well as the workers have had to endure great difficulties and hardships. In some cases there has been real privation.

While God's people within the Empire are beginning to feel their responsibility more to support their work and not to depend on outside help, I feel very strongly that the work of God in Central and Eastern Europe, specially in the latter, must depend a great deal on outside help in order to carry on such work as is being done by Licht dem Osten and the struggling Bible schools of Europe.

You will be pleased to know how teachers and students entered most heartily into the appeal for a three days of waiting upon God before the old year came to a close. I attended some of the meetings and they simply thrilled

my heart again and again to see and feel the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

I am confident that the Lord has created all over the world in those last three days of the old year such a prayer link and spiritual oneness among God's children as will be difficult for Satan to frustrate or overcome. It is now by God's grace for us to maintain unceasingly this fellowship uninterruptedly, until we see the Holy Spirit working in mighty power in the revival of the whole body of Christ, and in the spread of the Gospel, ere the coming of our blessed Lord.

Upon my return to Berlin from Wernigerode there awaited a cable from the Brethren at Kief, Russia, saying they were in great need for food, clothing and fuel. I knew there must be terrible suffering and decided to wire them about $600 from the money I took along. I gave needed relief to a number of Hebrew Christians and had to keep in mind the workers in Poland and Volhynia and in the Radost School, where I had learned they were suffering.

I found myself at a loss to know what to do first, and where to place the little I brought along with me for relief purposes. News also arrived from my own home folks in Russia of desperate conditions there. I feel sick at heart to know how terribly helpless they must be in their awful plight. Under the circumstances I do not see how I can even think of going to Russia empty handed.

It is entirely out of the question to start on such a trip when one knows of the desperate conditions. News reaching me from the Brethren is more than I can stand; it makes me ill. They say the need is simply appalling; they do not wish to cause me undue pain, but their plight is so terrible they must tell me something about it. Brother Palmer, I simply cannot go into Russia empty handed. I know I won't be able to endure seeing the Brethren in their desperate need. I must wait until the Lord answers their cry, as well as the cry of my own heart.

To this end I ask the dear ones at home to cast themselves upon God with me that He may in His own way send relief for the Brethren in Russia and Poland quickly. From what I have seen of the need in Poland I can gather what it must be like in Soviet Russia, shut off from the outside world as it is. I believe firmly that we have a heavy responsibility before God in their behalf. They are fellow-members of the same body with us.

I had a most blessed time of fellowship with Mr. and Mrs. Spencer-Johnson. (Mr. and Mrs. Spencer-Johnson are from England, and have been looking into spiritual and material conditions in Central Europe.) We spent much time on our knees before God and waited for His guidance in matters too difficult for us to solve.

There are problems here in Central and Eastern Europe which *we dare not face alone.* If we do, we shall soon discover how utterly helpless we are to take a single step without His guidance. They see the need exactly as I do with respect to the Gospel as well as the material conditions. They see the appalling need among the masses of the people and also the unprecedented opportunities for a glorious work of evangelization and of the uplifting of the body of Christ.

In order to get even second-hand clothing into Soviet Russia, and be reasonably certain it will reach the ones that we seek to help, we must pay heavy duty. In the meanwhile our brothers are starving, naked and shoeless. You will be glad to know through the kind officers of the German Red Cross we are able to get our relief supplies here shipped free of charge from one place to another as well as from the port of landing. Isn't that wonderful? If we had to pay for freight in Germany it would amount to a considerable sum, for transportation has jumped skyhigh during the past year.

Now permit me to speak of the situation in Poland. The little I saw during my ten-days' visit confirms my conviction that a mighty work of the Holy Spirit is going on among Jews and gentiles. I wish to say that the wonderful reports we have been hearing in the past year have not been overstated. Jewish and gentile hearts are eagerly drinking in the simple Gospel message wherever it is being proclaimed in simplicity and truth.

I wish you could have been present last Saturday night to see Jews—mostly young cultured Jews—crowding the place of meeting; there remained scarcely standing room. They stood quietly over two and a half hours, listening to the Gospel and the giving of testimony by Hebrew Christians. My heart was stirred to the highest degree. The Lord used a simple-hearted, uneducated Hebrew Christian, one of the last year Bible students at Radost School, Brother Sofer, to begin this work. The workers recognize in the humblest possible way that the Holy Spirit is doing the work.

In the Radost Bible School is a Russian Cossack, who was once a terror to the Jews in Volhynia. What a change God has wrought!

What a miracle the Holy Ghost has performed in his life. He is now giving his full and free services to Christ, to the masses of Jews and to others.

Our beloved Moses Gitlin will, I hope, in the near future render a report of the marvelous working of God in his own life and experience since the commencement of the Bible course at Radost. It is for us to make of this splendid institution all that the Lord wants it to be, or to become in the future, if He should tarry.

I believe I have given you enough information of the work of God in Central and Eastern Europe to enable you to unite with us in prayer that God may work out His full purpose with each one of us.

HENRY L. HELLYER.

A Russian Bible Concordance

In a little town, Wernigerode, hid away in the Harz Mountains, Germany, there is a Bible School for *Russians.* It is conducted by Pastor Jack, who formerly had a Bible School in Russia, and by Pastor Kroeker, known in Russia and Germany as preacher and writer. The School has two chief objects: (1) To train young people for mission work in Russia. (2) To publish and distribute Russian literature and Bibles.

A high Russian official, a colonel, a landowner, a tutoress, and a baroness are in the group. *Four years* they have worked on a Bible Concordance for Russia, living a life of *sacrifice and self-denial.* At times some of them have not had money even for a *postage stamp.* Accustomed to luxury and comfort, for the sake of the Lord's work they are denying themselves of all but the bare necessities of life. This *Concordance can* be *completed* by *Spring,* if the Lord sends in the funds. Three thousand dollars are needed *now.* Russian Christians are pleading for a Concordance. You *can* have a share in it. *Will you?*

God is working by *His Spirit* in the hearts of the Russian people. Tired of the Formalism of Greek Orthodoxy and steeped in atheism and the materialism of the soviets, the *people* of *Russia cry out* for *God.* You are *praying.* Are you *giving?* Help the *men* of *God* who *stand* in the *gap.* Great distress is threatening, due to the lack of food and clothing. Some of the workers are in dire need.

Biography of a Mennonite Christian

Vicissitudes of a Servant of God in Times of War, Famine and Disease.

WERNIGERODE, A. H., Dec. 3, 1924.

Dear Brother Smith:

I enclose an article written by a man who is working on the concordance here. Will you print it in your magazine? He is a splendid Christian and speaks English, German and Russian. They are trusting the Lord absolutely for all their needs, and my heart aches when I know they have not enough money to buy stamps, or even milk. Sincerely,

MARGARET M. GRIFFITH.

When I was asked to tell something of my former life in the beautiful South of Russia, I remembered first of all the year when I found Christ Jesus. It was during a Gospel meeting conducted by a German evangelist from Berlin, Johannes Warns. This happened the 6th of January in the late evening hours in the country village J., which was at a distance of about fifteen kilometers from my father's country seat. Just after the meeting my brother and I drove home on our sledge, through the snow-covered fields, and then it was, I began to thank my Redeemer for the wonderful change in my life He had begun just one hour before.

Evidence of His Conversion.

My brother, three years older than I, thought me foolish and did not at all feel the need of a Saviour, and so I proclaimed the story of my salvation to the driver, who was a native Russian, and continued to reveal the fullness of my joy with songs and choruses, which I had learned from my mother, who had died eight years before. Thus I did until we reached my father's courtyard at midnight.

The first daybreak of my new life I shall never forget, for it seemed all my surroundings had been changed and I had to tell every one what had happened to me. At that time it was quite an unusual thing to meet a "born again" soul, and so ere long I was said to be not only foolish, but insane, too; I was pleading for souls and wherever I found a chance I felt it my duty to tell the old, old story, which had become so new to me.

In the Name of the Lord.

One experience I shall always remember. At the close of a winter day the poor wife of our village carpenter entered my room, crying, and told me her husband, a notorious drunkard, was

(Continued on page 11.)

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The Mission in Bulgaria

A Gracious Revival in the Capital City, with Many Decisions to Accept Jesus as Saviour and King.

Philippople, Jan. 26, 1925.

Dear Brethren in Christ:

A very successful and fruitful ten days' Evangelistic mission has just been concluded in Sophia, the Capitol of Bulgaria.

Much preparation had been made by a prayer band of willing workers for a number of months, and our expectations were fully realized. Large crowds came nightly, until the accommodation was taxed to the utmost, and many were turned away disappointed.

There is always something inspiring in a large crowd. The great congregation that filled every corner of the mission hall night after night, was in itself an inspiration. But the air of expectancy that pervaded the place gave evidence that the gatherings were something different from the usual crowd in attendance at religious meetings.

Bulgaria, oh, dear Bulgaria, with all its sad blemishes, is still a land of burning hearts for a pure and true religion. Men and women were in those audiences whose pulses stirred at the hearing of the Gospel story.

The people present at the meetings in Sophia were chiefly among the non-church-going, many of whom have been roused to an interest in Christ's religion, and 170 raised their hands, remaining at the after-meetings, where opportunity was given for testimony and confessing Christ. And it was indeed a heart-warming experience to hear old and young tell with gladness of their acceptance of Jesus as Saviour and King. In several cases whole families testified to their new-found faith and joy in Jesus.

At the third meeting, 17 men and women stood up and confessed their sins publicly. These and similar incidents were very touching, and called forth exclamations of praise. It is not too much to say that the mission, first and last and all the way through was baptized in prayer. Who can doubt that this explains all that happened? The after-meetings were remarkable for largeness, brevity and spontaneity. There has been nothing like this awakening within living memory.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES IN BULGARIA

The three men sitting are without legs, and the other three are suffering with tuberculosis. They live at Nova Zagora and are in great need of strengthening food, clothing and shoes. "We have been able to help them with some money," writes Rev. Paul L. Mishkoff. Thousands of other refugees are equally in need.

In carrying the good news of Salvation by faith in Christ crucified, risen, ascended and coming, we find out many cases of genuine distress among the thousands of refugees. These

we relieve so far as we are able with the funds received for the purpose, believing that a kindly act is the best way of recommending the Gospel of Christ, of God's love to a dying world.

Shall I tell you what we have seen among the refugees in this part of the world? Oh, it is beyond my pen, but I will mention one or two cases.

A family of five is in a tight corner,—ill-health and lack of employment; no money and, of course, no food, and friendless.

A widow is convalescent after a long illness, and needs a helping hand.

In a home, without a father (because he was killed) there are six half-naked children. The mother herself is in a half-starved condition; no fire, no food.

In a stable where seven families are living, there is a poor woman with her newly-born baby lying on the ground with the rain coming through the ceiling. No one to attend to the unfortunate woman and baby.

Another family: There are two little children, the youngest born since its father was shot. The mother is consumptive. Nothing coming into the home except what they received from our relief funds.

Such cases can be multiplied many times over. If you wish me to state the situation of the refugees in a few words, I must say: *It is an increasing disgrace to all civilization, an outrage on humanity, a serious menace to the health of the world.*

Will you help us to carry on our ministry among these helpless and hopeless refugees? The need is still great, and starvation still faces multitudes.

While anxiously endeavoring to rescue and relieve the starving and suffering refugees, we must also carry the Gospel message, words of comfort for the sorrowing, faith in the Risen Saviour and personal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ as the only source of joy and peace.

We rely upon special gifts for our mission enterprise. Pray for our colporteurs, and Bible women who are going from place to place in towns and villages to give the word of God, who never realized the need for such a work as they do now, and who meet people living in deep ignorance about Salvation from sin through the Blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Most hearty thanks for your co-operation in this good work for the humanity. I have received three checks for relief and one for the Bible work, up till now.

Having not my own camera it is very difficult and expensive to make pictures of the refugees. They are not in one place and the photographer is not able to come everywhere with us.

Philippople, Feb. 16.

This morning I received your letter of Jan. 31, enclosing a check for $800. Thanks very much. I have acknowledged the receipt of the previous checks in my last two letters, and have sent a letter of thanksgiving from the refugees who are being helped with these funds.

I have to make very clear to you, that I shall be compelled to close the Bible Hall at the end of April, this year, if you are not able to come to our assistance in paying the rent ($40 per month). I shall be very sorry if the good work which is going on in the Bible Hall should stop.

Please pray with us that God may bless His work in Bulgaria more and more, and forgive me for reminding of these things; but our need is great, and we are crying to God for help, and earnestly pray that His own message in this matter shall reach the hearts of those who read the magazine and bring forth results according to His will and the Glory of His Holy Name.

Feb. 17.

To be able to take the light of salvation to those who sit in darkness is a privilege indeed. How gross is that darkness we have more than ever realized in traveling through the remote districts and through the scattered villages of Bulgaria. We pray that the outcome of our efforts will be the dawning of a new day for the places which we pass and the springing up of a new life in the hearts of the people with whom we come in contact.

Time and space will not permit all our experiences to be written, but I must give you a glimpse of what is going on over here, as we have entered the second month of the year.

Five millions is the population of Bulgaria, and among this kind, courteous, and industrious people is to be found the usual condition of sin, sorrow and poverty.

It is this side of the picture which calls forth the best the Russia Evangelization Society can give and do to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only hope for the world's evils as well as to relieve the social problems.

Our colporteurs are always on the streets speaking to the crowds of people, or visiting from house to house, selling Gospels and distributing

tracts. One sometimes wonders where all these books go. The people who take them come from all directions. One may picture these Gospels being carried to the little villages and town homes, and the contents being slowly read and understood. Who can foresee the outcome?

Miss Ann Mishkova, one of our Bible women, writes:

"I am sure you will be interested to hear more about my Sunday school and also about the two mothers' meetings which I have in Philippople. I can hardly express the joy in my heart each Sunday morning when I start for the Bible Hall. Just out of our gate I see smiling faces of dear girls and boys marching along the way to the school; and there, it is all joy and happiness, for the little ones feel at home when they come to the Sunday school. Sunday after Sunday becomes more interesting, for they learn something new, something more about Jesus and His love.

"Only yesterday, while I was telling them the story of the blind man and how Jesus gave him sight, one of the little boys said to me, 'Teacher, if Jesus asked me what do I want, I shall say, 'Make me a good boy, for I have eyes, and can see everything, but I must be good.'' I think that was very sweet of him. Pray about all these children and their parents.

"I have visited some of them and have had spiritual conversation. They are ready to listen, but they have not given yet their hearts to the Lord.

"Now, about the mothers' meetings: On Wednesday afternoon I go to one of the end parts of this city called 'Karshiaka.' It is a very large district and most of the people are from the working class,—even the wives go to the factories. In one of these homes, which I happened to know, I was allowed to go regularly and hold these meetings. The women are very interested in the Gospel truths, asking me all kind of questions and are very thankful that we have started these meetings, for they say, 'We don't go to church, and we have forgotten to pray; all we do is just to live for this life, and when something awful happens, then it comes to our mind to call God for help.'

"The other meeting is on Friday afternoon, quite in the opposite part from 'Karshiaka,' just by the skirts of one of the big hills in our town, where there are many new buildings; one part is for the invalids, another is for refugees. Last time the room was packed. An old woman of 86, said to me: 'Oh, how nice that I am able to come and listen. When first I heard about your coming to our part, I did not wish to come, thinking you are a fortune teller; but when I heard the good reports of the sweet truths you are telling, I said, that is just for me, for I am near the end of my life.' She comes now regularly.

"There also I met a young boy who, while playing football, hurt his leg, and for over three months he is an invalid. Having no parents, he has come to live with his aunt. Last Friday I had a good conversation with him, took him some books to read and gave him the New Testament.

"In my every-day visiting, I meet people with different needs; some of them are very poor. Now I have in mind a woman with four children, without work, and no money to pay the rent; she says, 'We are thankful if we can have only bread; but even the bread is very dear nowadays.' The woman and her young girl are ready to accept Jesus Christ and His Salvation. I feel I ought to help her materially, too, for the need is great, but I feel sorry as I have not the means. I think that the Bible woman ought to have some special fund for such purpose, in order to be able to help such bad cases. Please, pray for me."

Mrs. Tsveta Mechenova, our second Bible woman, writes:

"January was a very busy month for me. I visited 189 homes, and talked with 1,533 persons about the saving power of Jesus' blood. Five women's meeting were held, with 63 women present; 308 are attending my Sunday school. I have helped three families with 1,230 leva, and some clothing. Doctor Andreeff is very happy to see me in the Hospital, and while the children are singing the Gospel songs he is in the room to listen. A Jewish girl has invited me at her home to read the Bible. Another Jewish family invited me to dinner, because they were very much pleased with what I have taught their children about Christ's religion. I spoke to the invalids in the Invalids' Home, and distributed Gospels, tracts and money. I have visited the Hospital eight times, the Invalids' Home three times, and the Mothers' Home four times. Remember me in your prayers, please."

I am receiving letters almost every day from people who attended our revival meetings in Sophia, telling me that they have taken a new step in their life, and confessing Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

In the prison we are doing very wonderful work. After the meeting we are distributing

Gospels, and many prisoners were supplied with the Word of God.

We are courageously facing the difficult situation which has been imposed upon us by the large number of unhappy refugees who, driven from their homes, have sought refuge within Bulgaria's frontiers. No census has been taken of these refugees, but probably 400,000 is the minimum number. This figure includes Russians and Armenians, as well as those from Dobrudja, Thrace and Macedonia.

The Government's policy towards refugees is as benevolent as circumstances permit. Money grants have been made very sparingly, owing to the impoverished state of the Bulgarian Exchequer. The Red Cross and other charitable societies have done as much as their limited resources allow. Indeed, the attitude of Bulgaria toward refugees has been consistently charitable, and it is only just that this fact should be placed on record.

We most heartily thank our friends in America who enabled us to spread the tables in many refugee homes. They asked me to convey to all Christian friends their sincerest thanks for the help they have sent.

The relief work is still actively carried on. By sympathy and kindness we seek to do business for our Master. The widespread world troubles, the unrest and anxiety on every hand, as well as the deplorable lack of employment, affect us at all points. These are indeed anxious days. Hundreds upon hundreds of poor and helpless children and women, with no one in position to provide for them, are in danger of sinking into destitution and despair. And what of those who are walking the streets destitute and homeless? What of those bare, cheerless homes which lack food?

Thousands of Armenians, Russians and other deported Christians are homeless, hopeless and starving, while others are in peace and happiness. A terrible contrast!

A comfortable home——A stable, or rough shelter.

Sufficient to eat—Refugee food allowance, one loaf of bread per day.

Our children happy——Their children crying and in pain for lack of food.

Our babies comfy and warm —— Their babies dying of cold and lack of nourishment. Mothers unable to feed them.

Surely we, who are bountifully blessed, cannot suffer these fellow Christians of ours (thousands of children among them) to die of cold and hunger and nakedness.

Will you aid us in our efforts to give hope, happiness and eventual independence to sorely afflicted childhood?

And what is it that we ask for, as we make known to you the circumstances in which we serve? Is it not that we all may be workers together with Him? We are standing on the fighting line, bearing the heat and burden of the day; and as we thus give ourselves ungrudgingly in the service of our fellow men, we ask that our friends who have stood behind us in days gone by, watering the work with their prayers and refreshing it with their gifts, may still as loyally and faithfully lend a helping hand, and once again, by their kindly sympathy and generous aid, do something to lift the burden that weighs so heavily in these difficult days.

And as the approach of the Easter season reminds us of Him who came among men that He might freely give Himself for their redemption, so are we impelled to sacrificial giving that others thereby may be helped and strengthened in the task undertaken for Him. The need is pressing; we look to you for help and encouragement; and we feel sure that you will respond out of a heart touched and inspired by the Master Himself. For He has called us to be workers together with Him, and as we have freely received we are under obligation to give with a generous heart and a lavish hand.

Yours in His Fellowship,

PAUL L. MISHKOFF.

Biography of a Mennonite Christian

(Continued from page 7.)

about to kill himself and his dear little daughter. After committing myself to the Lord, I went to her home, praying I might not only save the poor carpenter from hanging himself, but win his precious soul.

Immediately upon seeing me, all the idle spectators disappeared. I then began to knock at the door and the closed windows of that poor cottage, telling the still poorer workman that I had a message for him fresh from my Redeemer Himself, and that, unless he should hear it, he would never get free from the devil and all his sins, and be a man again.

Hearing this strange message from my lips, the cross-bars on the door were removed and I was received by a wild and exhausted looking being, with a desperately frightened child in his arms. After a talk of about an hour, he broke entirely down and began to give up all skepti-

cism and doubts and drank in the greatest Gospel he had ever heard, that where sin had abounded, grace should *much more* abound (Rom. 5:20).

At last he sprang up and said that the Gospel of Christ, put in such a way, surely must convince the devil himself, and he was sure that he had been just as wicked as he. But now he was able to accept the Saviour as his personal Redeemer.

What a Wonderful Gospel!

He immediately embraced his perplexed wife and three little children, and with praying and thanksgiving and songs and psalms we spent the first night in this happy and new home.

After several similar events I felt deeply the necessity of Bible study, in order to be ready for my Master's service. I began to think how to get to a Bible school or seminary in Germany. Meanwhile our Mennonite Church was about to select some new preachers. The majority of votes fell on me and so I declared my readiness, unless they should object, to attend first of all the Alliance Bible School at Berlin. Although it seemed strange to them, they did not object. I had always seemed strange to them since my conversion.

Studying for Future Usefulness.

In 1910 I went to the above Bible school, which at that time was conducted by the Pastors Kohler and Warns in Berlin. In this school Romans 6:3 and 4 were made real to me and later on in life brought much blessing and help. From Berlin I was recommended to go to Mr. H. Stone's Missionary Institution at Greenwich in London to have a medical training in the missionary school.

After this, at the close of May, 1913, I went to Petersburg and was received there most heartily by the Russian leader, Rev. I. S. Prochanoff. Here I enjoyed a blessed fellowship and obtained an acquaintance with the Russian evangelical movement up there.

Romans 8:14 was made real to me now, and so I went freely to my father's home. The leaders there received me in such a way that I had to begin my preaching with Genesis 37:3, showing them in Joseph the real type of our Lord Jesus, who loved his brethren so much, that he offered his whole soul and body for them. This I brought in connection with Romans 9:1-3, and continued to preach the true Gospel of Christ for about one year, until I was asked to preach no longer in their church.

His Last Sermon in the Old Pulpit.

On Easter Sunday I had my last sermon, in an overcrowded assembly, and many a soul was deeply touched by the Lord when I spoke about the Risen One and about the glorious witnesses who had seen Him in those early days. I added that He will reveal Himself to all to-day who are willing to accept Christ Jesus as the only Saviour (1 Cor. 15:1-10).

When I left that church, quite a number of true believers followed us, and we began a new work, which was greatly blessed. Many souls were saved. My wife and I started Bible classes for young men and young women and for adults, and the Lord was with us. Besides I started with my dear wife, also a former student of the same medical school in London, a free medical dispensary among the poor Russians. The Lord blessed our homeopathical treatment so much, that during the first year we had the privilege of helping about 1,600 patients, to every one of whom we distributed a free Gospel portion, as well as a simple story of the way to the Chief Physician of souls and bodies.

A Call from the Police.

By the way. I ought to add that my dear wife was spoken of as one who converted the people immediately upon their entrance at the front door. This was our purpose. Thus our work grew and prospered in a most wonderful way, until one day, the chief of the Country Police, with three policemen, called upon me. At first he perused all my books and tracts for distribution, and afterwards he had a look at my drugs also.

"Well," he said, "the law does not prohibit a free dispensary, but the distribution of Gospels and tracts is contrary to it; you not only must stop that, but you shall be exiled for it to Siberia, as it has been regarded by the Governor-General of the Military District of Odessa as against the State Church, i. e., the Greek-Orthodox Church."

Making Better Subjects for the Czar.

"Well," I then replied, "you may do what you will, but I myself find in it no transgression against the law, for you will agree with me, that by these Gospels and religious Tracts the Russians will not only be better subjects to the Czar, but the people themselves will prosper in every way."

Concerning the exilement to Siberia, and the prohibition of Gospel work, I referred to Acts 4:19, 20 and Acts 5:29, so that he quite admired my fearlessness and proposed that I sign my

name only, promising not to leave the place and to come to his office when he called me. This I did.

We went on with our work as before, trusting our heavenly Father more than ever. After a fortnight I was advised to come to his office, and being full of cheer and courage, I left my dear wife, without any fear or anxiety about things which might happen. But upon my arrival at his office, I was quite surprised how kindly he received me there, as well as in his home. After a good meal we sat around the old Russian "samovar," enjoying cakes and sweets, and I was asked to tell about Germany and England.

"How Do You Make Your Money?"

Afterwards we spoke of my medical undertaking, and why it was that all patients counted me a successful English doctor. I declared to my Master's glory, that not I, but He Himself was curing all of them. In the majority of cases the tract created a deep longing for more of the Word.

"Well," he said, "does any one at last repay you for all this?"

"Yes," I said, "my heavenly Father, who had given to me the ability and privilege of doing it."

Being convinced that I did not belong to any foreign society, and that all my actions were due to my deep sincerity, he at last wished to be cured himself of a certain complaint, and later on his wife, too. With joy I gave them the necessary homeopathic drugs and was very glad to present them also a New Testament, which they desired. On leaving he simply asked me not to be depressed about this matter, and said he would postpone my already ordered exilement until I had been mobilized for my military duty. This he said had to take place in two or three weeks.

"After you have left for your army service, I shall pass on my police orders, and, as you have gone already, I have only to state the fact of your mobilization."

Surgeon on the Red Cross Trains.

I took it as out of the Lord's hands, and so I really never was exiled to Siberia. However, I was not permitted to return to my work, but was appointed instead as an army surgeon, first in Moscow, and later, on the Red Cross trains of the All-Russian Union of the northern regions. They regarded me as dangerous because of my religious principles, and under such circumstances I did my duty up to the first Revolution in March, 1917. Then, all in exile and all criminals were set free.

In Job 5:19 we read: "He shall deliver thee in six troubles," and like Job I passed through six troubles. Five times I was sentenced to be shot by the brigands, and the sixth time I went through a severe attack of typhoid. I want to tell you how God helped me through some of these difficult trials.

His Life Is in Danger.

Going from one town to another, I was lying asleep on a bench in a third-class car. Suddenly I was awakened by several brigands, holding their revolvers before my face.

They rudely said: "Show us your papers!"

At once I took in the situation and knew that my life was in danger, in case they should discover that I was a German. I prayed that I might pull out of my pocketbook my Ukrainian passport. Happily I did so, and out of my pocket appeared the certificate. Seeing they could not read it because of their illiteracy, I boldly offered my assistance. At once they snatched it away, and as the stamp on it was a real red one (and that was growing in favor), they were satisfied. They continued questioning me, however, as to my nationality, and when they came to the conclusion that I was a native Ukrainian, they went on to the other passengers, treating them in the same way.

Attacked by Ten Ruffians.

The chief physician of the hospital, where my wife was located, secured me as his assistant. Here some robbers found me, when examining some patients in the women's ward. Because of my surname, they thought I was a member of the wealthy classes.

"You have been a rich man!" they shouted at me, "and you are here for the sake of safety!"

"Please," I said, "I am here on duty, and it is strictly forbidden to make a noise in this ward at such a late hour."

"Well," they said, "we want your passport, and to-morrow we will soon learn whether you are a rich refugee or the real assistant of the chief physician, as you say." In the morning these brigands, armed up to the teeth, entered my room again, they were simply perplexed to find me so courteous and happy.

Brigands Unable to Kill His Soul.

"Do you not know that we are going to kill you now?"

"Well," I said, "if God permits you, you probably may do so. But you cannot touch my soul!"

(Concluded on back cover.)

Russian Refugee Work in Berlin

Story of a Quiet, Consecrated Service Among the most Needy Ones in a Foreign Land.

(Continued from last issue.)

I understood the reason why I had felt so compelled to come in and see them. Here, too, in this urgent need, I was to help with the money I had recently received by post. I was to be like the raven of Elias, who brought bread and cheese to him. And now I could no longer keep this to myself, and said to my unsuspecting friends:

"I feel more and more clearly that God has sent me to you this evening. Tell me, have you in fact paid last month's rent for these rooms?"

Jewish Landlord Collects His Rent.

Thereupon Mrs. H—ski answered: "Unfortunately not. For this reason our Jewish landlord came to us this morning and returned again this evening. He even threatened to throw us out on the street."

Thereupon I put the money for the rent and a small sum for living into the hands of Mrs. H—ski. Hardly had I done so, than there was a loud knock at the door. It was the landlord who had come for his rent; Mrs. H—ski asked him to wait a moment while she fetched it from the next room.

The joy of all present was indescribable at this wonderful dealing of our Lord. We all felt constrained to praise and thank Him from our hearts. Before kneeling down to pray, I read aloud John 21:1-13, and brought its connection with the present case: Vain self-trying in the morning; after a whole night of unsuccessful work! Jesus stands on the beach, he helps, is recognized by His own,—and quickens them. Everything was so like the experience of my friends. When we prayed, words of thanks and praise flowed from the lips of all grown-ups present; for help had come here in the nick of time, but not a minute too late,—yes the Lord had even provided for the next days!

Aiding a Deserted Wife and Children.

Mrs. M. and her two little children, a girl of seven and a boy of nine, are also in a very sad position. For years she was school teacher in Russia. Her husband returned to Russia some two years ago, and since then has cared no more for wife and children. At first he stopped writing, and then he let her know that she need not expect him back any more; also that she could seek for a divorce from him for he had taken another woman out there. What bitter suffering for the wife and mother, who is left to shift for herself and her two little children, in Germany's large, strange capital. How good that this woman had found her Saviour a year ago. So she knows where to seek shelter, and she does not lose hope that the Lord will yet bring her husband back on the right way. Thanks to the American gift, I could also help this poor mother.

Separated From Her Little Ones.

One day, the Russian widow K—a comes to me in her distress. Her husband was killed during the riots of the revolution. Thanks to some good people her children have found a home in a Belgian convent and are being educated there. She found a modest living as a restaurant waitress, first in Wiesbaden and then in Berlin. But the Russian undertaker with whom she worked had to give up his business and dismissed her. And now she cannot pay the rent for her room and fears to go home. She has spent several nights with some friends, and her face clearly shows that she has cried much during these last nights,—and eaten very little. Her sad look cuts me to the heart. The "Red Cross" has sent her. What she needs is not a small sum for her daily bread,—no, they could have given her that, but firstly, she should be helped to pay her rent,—and then she had but one desire, that was to be with her children. It was utterly impossible for me to help her in last matter.

Similar cases are very frequent. One day a Princess D. and a Countess K. came to me with the same request. Their passports and the information which we gathered upon investigation, proved that this was a true case and not that of swindlers. For in such things, too, there is much dishonesty going on.

Park Benches Instead of Beds.

Another case was two young Russian men came to my door. They both looked tired and miserable. One of them was very poorly dressed, the other a bit better. The former had been technical school student in Camp Wunsdorf. Lack of means had forced him to give up his studies. He had then worked as a peasant, helping to bring in the harvest, but that, too, had come to an end, and both of them are now without funds and have nothing to eat. They have spent the last nights on the benches of a large garden.

Sometimes despair seizes the refugees. Lately we heard the tragic news of a Russian officer's widow's death; she was a very clever and able woman, spoke several languages fluently and

would have gladly earned her living by either giving lessons or doing translation work. But in her despair she committed suicide, and hanged herself in the churchyard beside her husband's grave.

Russian Refugees in Constant Distress.

These cases sufficiently illustrate the moral and material conditions of the life of Russian emigrants and refugees. Everywhere in Berlin we come into contact with this distress. As much as we would like to help in all such very deserving cases, we are of course able to render assistance only to a very restricted number. And yet, how great is the thankfulness of those to whom we were able to give something out of the large consignment from Sweden, or of those who enjoyed the benefit of dinners at the soup kitchens which our American friends had enabled us to open for needy refugees in Berlin.

But even if we have not sufficient means to help in all the cases of physical distress, yet we are rich in the possession of the Word of God, which is a remedy and a resource for the soul's need of all the homeless refugees. And there the word comes very true: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything else shall be added unto you." Therefore we try to tell the needy ones about the truth in God's Word and testify to them when we occasionally meet them or go and visit them in their homes.

We distribute the New Testament and other Christian literature among them, and four times a week we have Russian meetings and try to bring the precious Good News to them. The number of attendants at these meetings varies according to the different parts of the town and the time of the day.

Hearts Poured Out to God.

Most precious is the unity in prayer, in which we usually join after the addresses. Many a one learns again to pour his or her heart in prayer to the heavenly Father. They become aware that our God is not a dead, far-away, hard God, but that He is such as He has revealed Himself to us in Christ Jesus, a loving Father, One on Whom we can rely hour after hour, and to Whom we can tell all things.

Again and again we were told by those who were newcomers to our gatherings that they had been most impressed and soothed by this simple, childlike praying, this immediate coming nearer the Throne of Grace, of the Father. What matter if there were some who took offense at such a simple, unostentatious way of worshipping God, at this manner of praying to God,—perhaps even smiled or mocked at it. What matter if another time an atheist is present, and loudly expresses his astonishment at such an "old-fashioned" service, and even openly speaks against it?

Yes, sometimes there is serious opposition to conquer. All sorts of rumors, slander and such like are at times set going; people are warned of the "dangerous sectarians." Everything is done to hinder the work.

Are You Sharing This Rich Harvest?

But nothing of all this can be compared to the joy we experience when the seed which was sown has fallen on good ground, rises, grows, ripens and brings fruit. It quickens us and strengthens our faith, and is an encouragement to us and for all those who believe.

Our sisters also have occasion to bring the good news about Jesus to the *children in the Russian school.* They tell them that He is the Friend of children. About fifteen children attend these classes.

On *Monday evenings* our two sisters, L. Bonnke and M. Kanasheffski, gather the young girls for a *young girl's Bible class* and experience many a blessing in that work.

Besides this regular work among Russians, our veteran missionary, Father Bonnke, carries on work amongst *Germans from Russia.* And our Lord blesses this ministry, for some say that they have found peace of soul just there.

Finding Eternal Life and Peace.

Here I would like to give glory and honor to Christ in telling how several found peace and salvation in Jesus Christ.

In the outskirts of Berlin, in the so-called Barack colony quite a number of Russians live together. First we began home visitation among them and gradually this developed into regular small assemblies. It soon grew evident that some of the Russian women had quarrelled with each other so badly, that they were even averse to seeing each other. If therefore our meetings were held in one house, it would be a reason for some women not to come, and if again we assembled in the house of a third, it would keep the others from coming to the meeting, etc.

This went on till the heart of one of the worst of them, Mrs. H—e, was touched by the love of Jesus Christ. She had formerly been a school teacher. For a time she spoke against our assemblies in the colony. But gradually this changed. She sat there very quietly and listened

attentively. The expression in her eyes betrayed greatest interest.

The Cry of a Seeking Soul.

One day we were again to have a meeting. Prior to that I paid a few visits and came also to the family H—e. When I entered the room, Mrs. H—e and her husband and her mother were present; I saw that Mrs. H—e had been crying, and both her husband and her mother looked distressed.

Hardly had I greeted them, when Mr. H—e said to me: "I cannot allow my wife to go on attending the meetings, and she will not come this evening, either. If this goes on much longer then I will soon have to send her to a lunatic asylum. During the last week she hardly slept, but cried much. And she continually repeats: 'I will be lost, I will be lost!'" Of course I directly knew that the Saviour of sinners, Jesus, was at work here, seeking and saving that which is lost. For that reason I could calm the husband and assure him that all would end well in this case.

In the presence of mother and husband I questioned Mrs. H—e about her soul's position, read several applicable passages from the Bible to them and gave them some explanations to it. Then we knelt down for prayer; first I prayed for light for the sin-sick soul, whereupon she joined of her own accord and poured her sorrowful heart out in prayer to God and besought Him for His grace.

When it was time for me to hurry to the meeting, she said: "Maybe I will still join you." "Only if you promise not to cry again!" her husband added. She did come after some time, and on that evening she found what her soul had been seeking so very, very long,—peace with God and full assurance of salvation.

Visiting Her Quarreling Neighbors.

She was now able to keep her promise given to her husband, for the cause of her sorrow and her tears was now gone. But in the very next days something happened that certainly was very painful and much displeased her husband. His wife went from neighbor to neighbor and asked them to forgive her former behavior and witnessed of the wonderful change in her soul. It was very painful for Mr. H—e that all his neighbors should hear from Mrs. H—e herself what a bad wife he had had, and yet he had been quite satisfied with her.

But just such a confession had many blessed results. The quarrels came to an end. On the contrary, these women now visited each other very often in the course of the following weeks. The conversion of their neighbor had made a deep impression on those women and had awakened the longing for salvation. And when the joyful Mrs. H—e tried to win her husband for Jesus, his answer was: "Oh, that is nothing for me, but only for such witches as you used to be." Then she replied with joy: "Yes, such a one I was, but thanks be to God, I am no more."

Finding Christ Through Suffering.

Another case. In one of the boarding houses of Charlottenburg (west end of Berlin) a young Russian lady, Mrs. L., is lying very ill. Her late husband, formerly an officer in the Russian Imperial Navy, died a few years ago. Her sister

RUSSIA EVANGELIZATION SOCIETY,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City. **Date** .....

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and only relative tenderly nurses this sick young woman. She suffers of abdominal cancer. A friend wrote to us, asking Sister Linny Bonnke very urgently to visit this poor sufferer.

Gladly did Sister Linny comply,—and found not only a poor aching body, but a soul hungering and thirsting for God. As the dry ground absorbs the rain, so did she drink in the passages from the Holy Scriptures which Sister Linny read to her. Most thankful was she for prayer and intercession and very earnestly she asked our sister to visit her again.

Soon after God led those two lonely women to find nice, quiet rooms in the very same house in which our sisters live; thus they could leave the noisy boarding house. From week to week the poor patient grew worse and all hope of recovery had to be given up. The pains were often unbearable. But in her soul a blessed transformation was going on. Whenever I could visit her, she always had question upon question on her heart about her soul's salvation.

For some length of time she was fearful she was too bad, and that the Saviour could not forgive her sins,—and certainly not accept her. But gradually light dawned upon her and in faith she accepted the Saviour as her personal Redeemer. And then great joy and deep peace came to her soul. Then she used to say: "Notwithstanding all wealth and learning, honor and position and outer piety in former days,—how poor and empty was my life! Although I am now poor and miserable, in my heart I am so unspeakably rich and happy!"

Moments came, when physical suffering was so intense, that her faith was severely tested. But God's Word and prayer to Him always uplifted her. The more she suffered, the greater was her yearning for her heavenly home, which was now no more an empty word to her, but a strong reality. In the last weeks of her illness, all who visited her and sat by her bedside, received a blessing. After months of intense suffering, the Lord took her to that Place of Peace, where sorrow and sickness never come.

Russian Women Saved and Serving.

"A saved person saves others." The truth of these words shows itself in the life of Russian women who have been saved by the Lord Jesus. Sister Berent formed a Women's Missionary Sewing Society some time ago; this society was also greatly affected by the economical crisis in this country last year, as were all organizations and individuals. Now that is better and the work has again been satisfactorily resumed. Fifteen women and young girls gathered together for a practical work of love. They make underclothes and dresses for poor mothers, widows and orphans for the coming winter. They give their time, their strength and as much as possible of their money. They meet twice a month.

While they were sewing, I brought before them women of the Bible as examples to follow, or as a warning. The afternoon gatherings are times of blessing for the participants. They had the joy of receiving food from the Word, and the joy of giving to the needy. We call this sewing society a missionary society, because here unconverted women who wanted to do this work of love could receive light from the Word. Many Gospel hymns are sung during the hour.

Gospel Service Close to Nature.

We also go for an outing to one of the beautiful places in the neighborhood of Berlin. One day this summer we spent in the woods on the banks of the Spree; about sixty persons went. Walking in the shadow of the trees, along the bank of the river, playing on the meadows, and all this intermingled with personal talks and Gospel songs quickly brought the day to its close. Before separating we had an out-door service.

As we look back over the last months, our hearts are filled with praise and thanks toward Him, who has given us strength and blessing far beyond our asking and deserving. We have also had disappointments, which grieve us for the persons concerned. But we have learned to bow more humbly before the Lord. We have realized our lack of childlike trust and faith, our falling short in wisdom, strength, zeal and patience in prayer. From the depths of our soul arises the earnest prayer: "Lord, forgive the mistakes of the past and strengthen us for the work of the future." We thank most heartily the friends and brethren for their prayer and gifts and may God reward you richly and may you remember our work in the future, in love and intercession.

In the name of the Berlin workers of the Missionary Fellowship, "Light to the East."

DAVID BEKKER.

SERVICE IN THE WOODS

This picture was sent by our friends in Germany to convey to our hearts a greater love for our fellow Christians, who are here gathered for a Russian service in the neighborhood of Berlin. Mr. David Bekkar is conducting the meeting.

Biography of a Mennonite Christian

(Concluded from page 13.)

"Are you a Saint or a Baptist?"

"Yes," I said, "you see a fearless saint in me, and baptized I have been, too, after believing on my Eternal Redeemer and Saviour, although I have never belonged to the so-called Baptists, I call myself just a Christian."

"Stop it! Let us lead him outside and kill him, for he was a rich man, who misused his poor laborers."

"No," said a second one, "such a happy Christian has never done any harm, and so we should first find out, if his name is on the black list."

A third, however, demanded: "He has to die, because he is a German and all Germans, you know, are fighting against us, and therefore are 'contra revolutionaries.'"

"No," said the last one, "what we have to do, is to bring his certificate to our captain, and just as he decides it must be."

And so they left, doing me no harm. After two days their captain came. Those days were long for me. He said, examining me:

The Lord Preserves His Life.

"Don't be afraid any more, for you are not the person whom we seek, and here are your papers."

At the end of 1922 we had terrible horrors roundabout where we lived, combined with an unspeakably cruel cannibalism. You probably may ask why seventeen out of twenty-five cannibals were mothers who had killed and eaten their own offspring. It was due to the ignorance and misunderstood liberty of a population of which eighty per cent were peasants and the greater part were illiterate.

Physicians and Nurses Give Their Lives.

In those dark days about sixty per cent of the medical staff in that region died from the difficult, endless, tiring work and owing to malnutrition during the awful epidemics of all kinds of diseases.

First Food Draft from America.

It was in the early spring of 1922 that we got the first food-draft through the American Mennonite Relief. To our surprise and joy we happily discovered that it had been forwarded by our dear cousin from Canada, Saskatchewan, Balmeny. At the same time I got a Christian magazine with several addresses of true Mennonite believers from the United States, who were offering help to anyone who would send them their addresses.

We went first to Petrograd and from there by boat to Stettin and arrived at Berlin the 20th of November. Here we went first to my nephew, a missionary amongst Russian refugees in Berlin and for two days enjoyed the warmest hospitality.

Peace and a Home at Last.

About that time I obtained a position at the Missionary Society, "Light to the East," in Wernigerode, and so at last I was able to bring my dear wife to a special hospital in her native town Halle/S. Here she underwent a thorough treatment and a difficult operation. It was wonderful how the Lord gave us at the right time just what we needed. Later on she went for recreation to a place in Württemberg, but instead of taking recreation she began a missionary work among the women and girls and children and many souls have been brought to their precious Saviour. Thus her sickness, which lasted about seven years, has passed. And if anyone asks her now how she feels, she praises the Lord for "His goodness and mercy which has followed her every day of her life and that she is sure she shall dwell forever in His presence." (Ps. 23: 6.)

Just a few words more about my work with the Missionary Society, "Light to the East." First of all I have been engaged in the most wonderful and needed work of compiling the "first portable Russian Bible concordance," which shall be finished next spring, if our gracious Lord grants the money. Besides I instruct the students of the Bible school in a medical way as far as first aid is needed for a missionary and I also give them English lessons, which they very much appreciate. I have been doing this up until the present time, receiving for my service free board and lodging both for my wife and myself; sometimes even six dollars a month besides in gratitude. With this we can buy milk, etc., which we need to strengthen us.

Not Like the Old Russian Home.

The Lord has provided clothing through some of His dear children, and although it is no more as it was in Russia, when we had our own things in abundance, we are still rejoicing, for we see that so very many in vast Russia have not even the bare necessities.

Above all we have got a better understanding of the will of God. We wait not only for renewed strength for our return to Russia, but also for the exact time when He would have us go, and we know our heavenly Father shall do all things well. Looking back, we join in the first five verses of Psalm 103 and close with an everlasting praise to His glory, for He has satisfied our mouths with good things and our lives are renewed like that of the young eagles. Glory be to His precious Holy Name. Hallelujah! Amen!